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February 12, 1973

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
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Dear Professor Lederberg:

I was delighted to receive your most charming letter concerning the Einsteinian-Promethean motif in the mind of western man. Under separate cover, I am sending you several other articles which I have written on the subject, and which I feel from your writings will interest you very much. One is an article dealing with "The Consecration of the Prophet." This is the earliest of my papers, and it deals precisely with the mythos surrounding the prophet as an element in character building and ideal formation. This paper predates my '61 discussion of mythology by many years. The latter paper concentrated on the element of method, and for that reason more emphasis was placed on the universal unconscious fantasy of the theft of the phallus. The other papers will demonstrate how I have applied this same concept of shared unconscious fantasy and their relationship to myth and ideal formation. The most precise presentation of my views on that matter is probably contained in my summary of one of the papers entitled, "The Madonna's Conception Through the Eyes."

I enjoyed your "writings" over a span of forty years. I would gather from the spirit in which you write that you probably have some acquaintance with the modern Hebrew authors of the Renaissance of Hebrew letters at the beginning of the twentieth century. One of the most famous of the essayists of that period, Ahad Ha-am, wrote several articles on the role of Moses in Jewish history and the contrapuntal roles of priest and prophet. In these articles, written 1894 to 1895, he anticipated by almost twenty years Freud's concept of the superego as being unconsciously based, consciously covered by rationalizations, and genetically derived from identification with long forgotten ideal objects.

I will send you these other writings under separate cover, and I would appreciate receiving your comments.

Sincerely,


Jacob A. Arlow, M.D.

JAA:as